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Social Status and Cultural Consumption across Europe: Comparative Perspective

(project proposal)

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Theoretical background

Lifestyle (e.g. participation in cultural practices) describes social position (P. Bourdie's class theory [Bourdie 1984])

Results vary in different countries, however, there is a lack of cross-national research

Necessity of finding country differences in relation between social status and patterns of cultural consumption

Status Stratification

Neo-Marxism

(Wright 1997; Burawoy, Wright 2001; Wright 2005)

Conflict over production and distribution;

Employers and **employees** are opposed to each other;

This opposition affects the patterns of lifestyles of these groups.

Status Stratification

Neo-Weberian

(Goldthorpe 2000; Breen 2005)

Class position (labor market) → **Life chances** → **Status position (lifestyle)**

Education gives better life chances, so there is an distinction between **intellectual** and **manual** work

Status Stratification

Postmodernism

(Pakulski, Waters 1996; Bauman 2005; Castells 2011)

Traditional professional distinctions are

no longer applicable

Any professional status is a success

Employed vs **Unemployed**

New classes are **atomic**

Lifestyle patterns

Lifestyle homology

(Bourdieu 1984; Warde et al. 2007; Atkinson 2011)

Each class has certain **set of lifestyles activities and products** which let them to emphasize their social position;

The division of **highbrow** and **lowbrow** culture;

Unlikely to be found for cultural practices;

Lifestyle patterns

Hybrid lifestyles

(Peterson, Kern 1996; Katz-Gerro 2005; Chan, Goldthorpe 2007; Kraykaamp 2011)

Omnivore-univore thesis: higher social position means more diverse cultural consumption;

Voracious thesis: higher social position means more intensive cultural consumption;

Most common finding for cultural practices studies but several contradictions were revealed for cultural products preferences;

Lifestyle patterns

Homogeneous lifestyles

(Giddens 1991; Beck 1992)

New status distinctions are based on **non-economic identities** (e.g. gender, ethnicity, *cultural preferences* etc)

Cultural consumption defines social status

No relation to professional status

Status and Cultural Consumption: Cross-national Comparisons

Few works on this topic

(Katz-Gerro 2002; Hek, Kraaykamp 2013; Katz-Gerro 2011; Gerhards et al 2012)

Comparing consumption of **legitimate** culture only

Impact of GDP and Gini

Differences over regions of Europe (North, West, South, East & Central)

Data

Eurobarometer 79.2 (Spring, 2013)

Variables of interest:

- **Cultural consumption (How many times in the last 12 months have you: seen** opera or ballet; been to the cinema; the theatre; a concert; visited a museum or gallery; watched or listened to a cultural programme on TV or on the radio**)**
  - **extensity and intensity of cultural consumption**
- **Professional status (type of job) (**self-employed, managers, white collars, manual workers, no defined status**)**

Country-level:

- GDP per capita
- Gini index
- Unemployment rate

Controls:

- gender
- age
- size of town
- difficulties paying bills (for income)
- education

Hypotheses

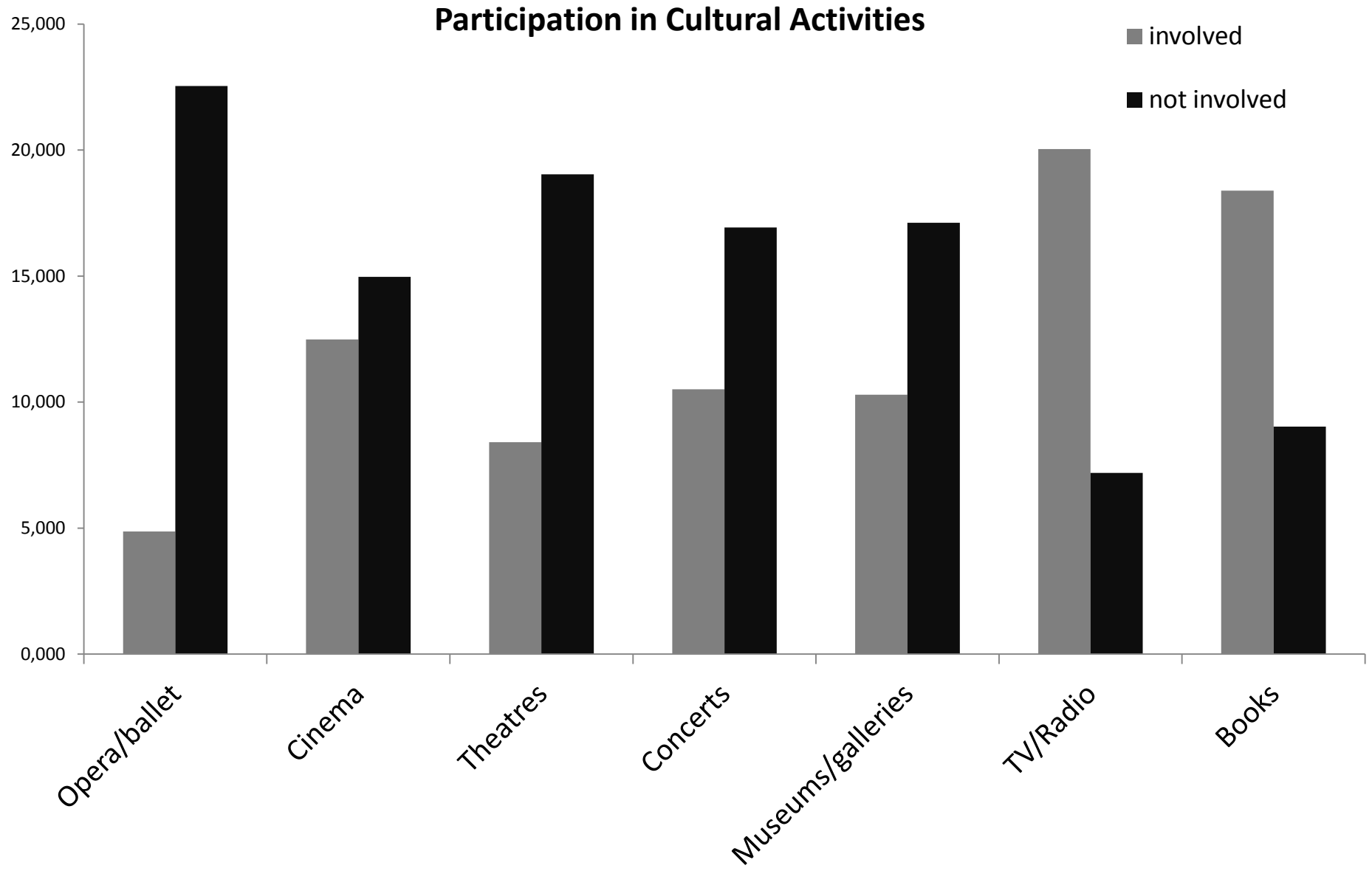
1. Employers have more extensive and more intensive cultural consumption than employees.
   1a. Employees are more likely to be involved in popular practices.
2. Manual workers have less extensive and intensive cultural consumption than those who involved in intellectual work.
   2a. Manual workers are more likely to be involved in popular practices.
3. Employed respondents have more various and intense consumption than respondents with no certain professional status.
   3a. Unemployed are more likely to be involved in popular practices.

Hypotheses

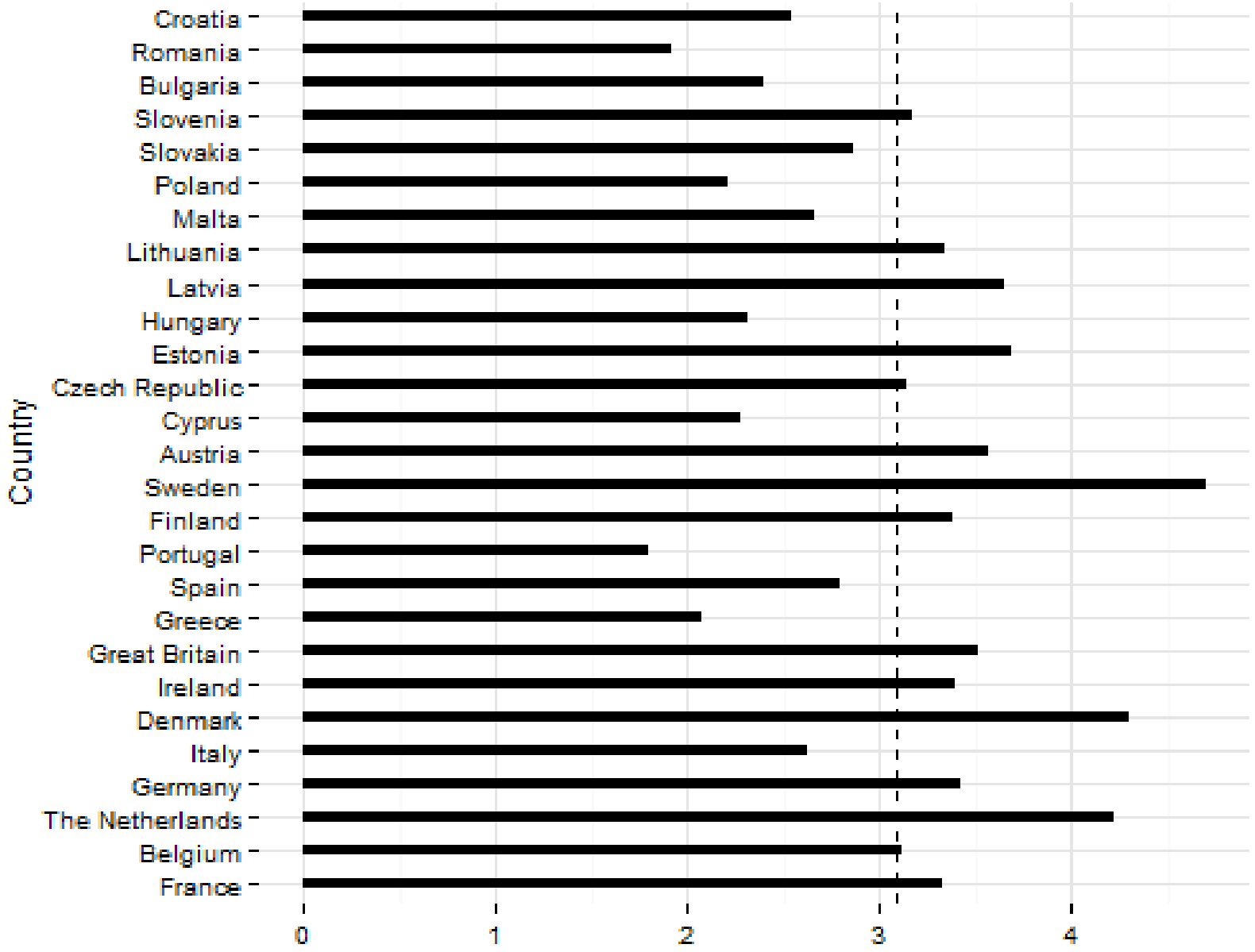
1. More economic developed countries have more extensive and intensive cultural consumption.
2. Countries with higher level of economic inequality are expected to have lower extensity and intensity of cultural consumption.
3. Countries with higher level of economic inequality are expected to have more differences in cultural participation of different social statuses.
4. Higher level of unemployment rate decreases the whole extensity and intensity of cultural consumption and

   7a. it increases the difference among statuses

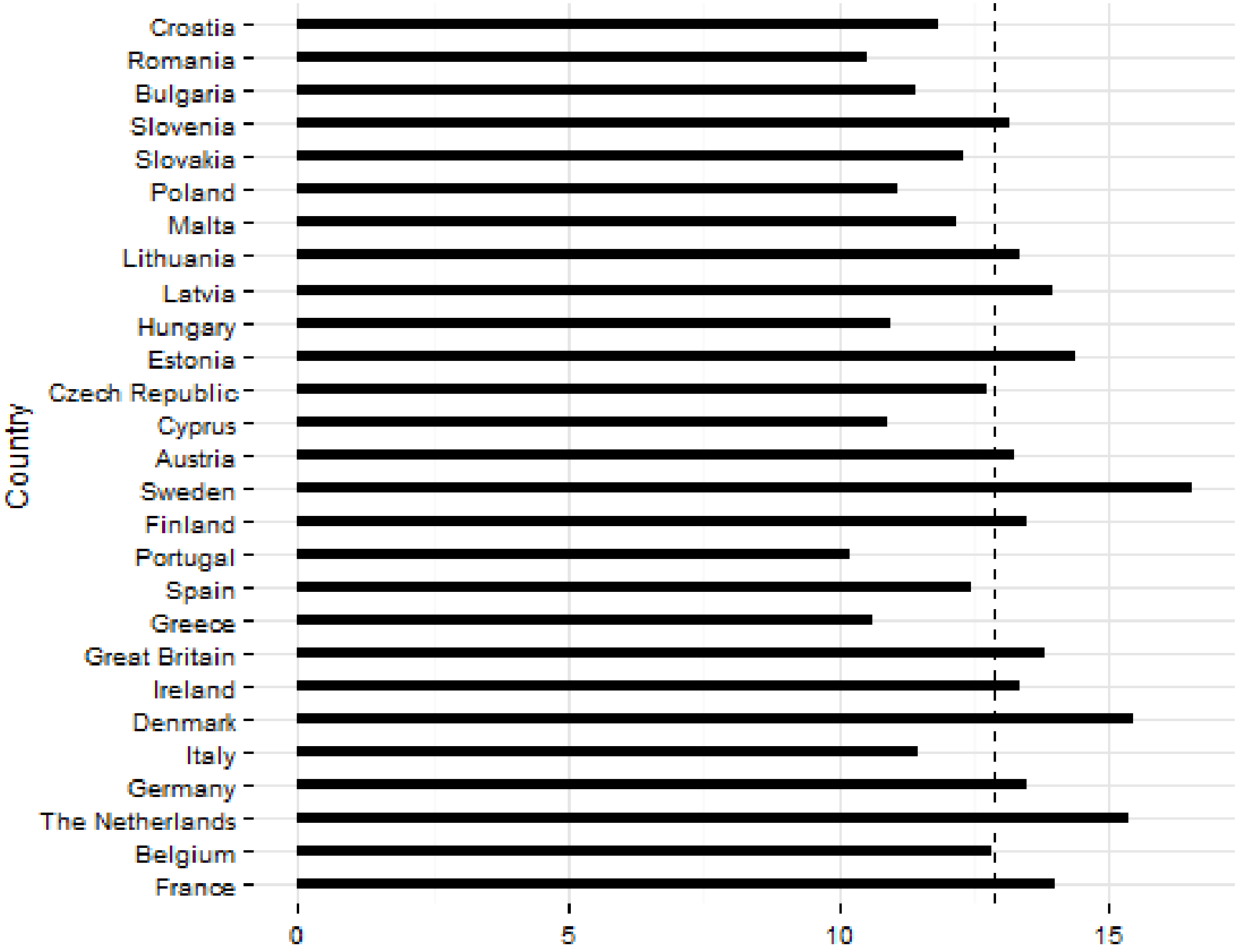
Preliminary Results



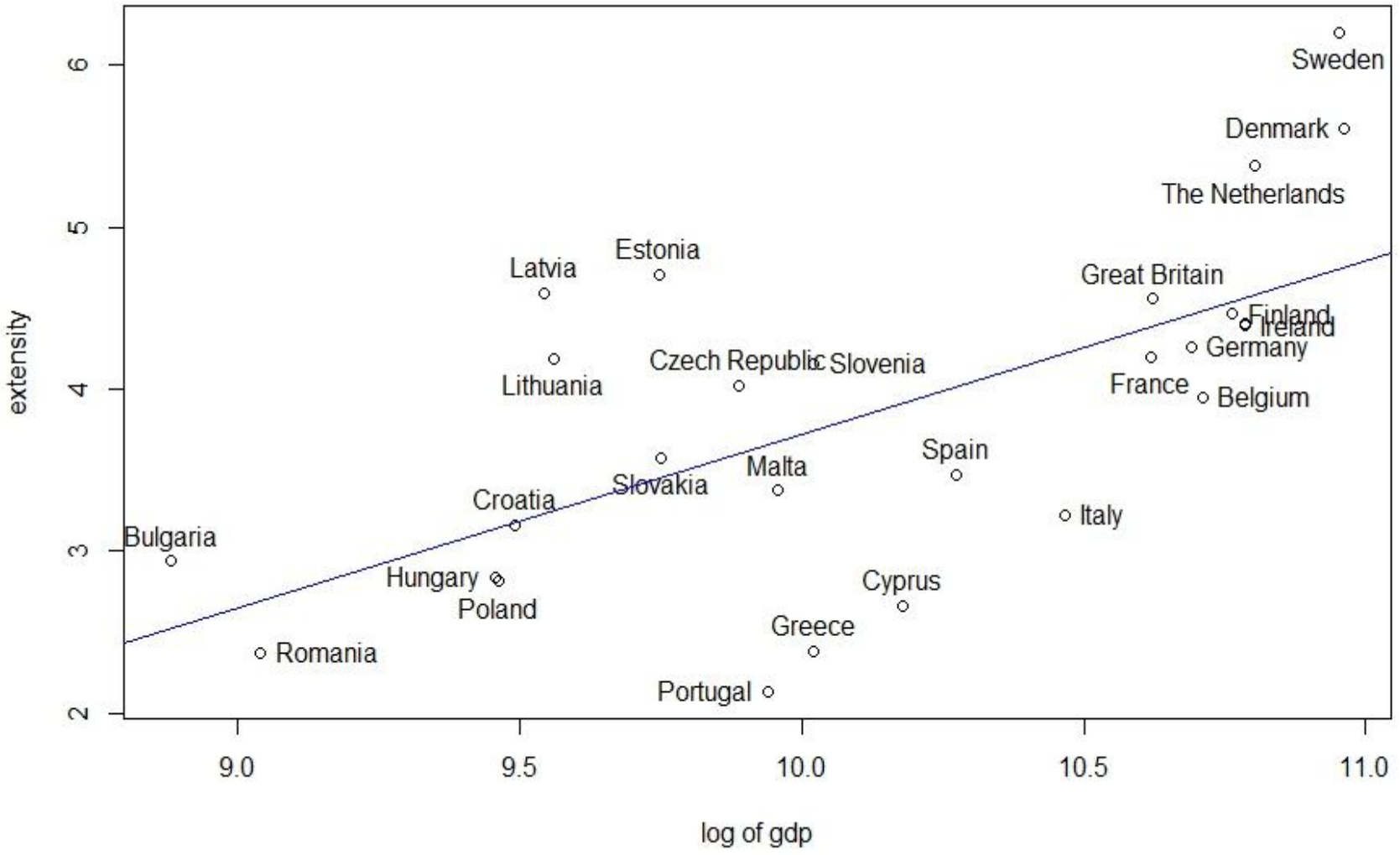
Average Extensity of Cultural Consumption across Europe



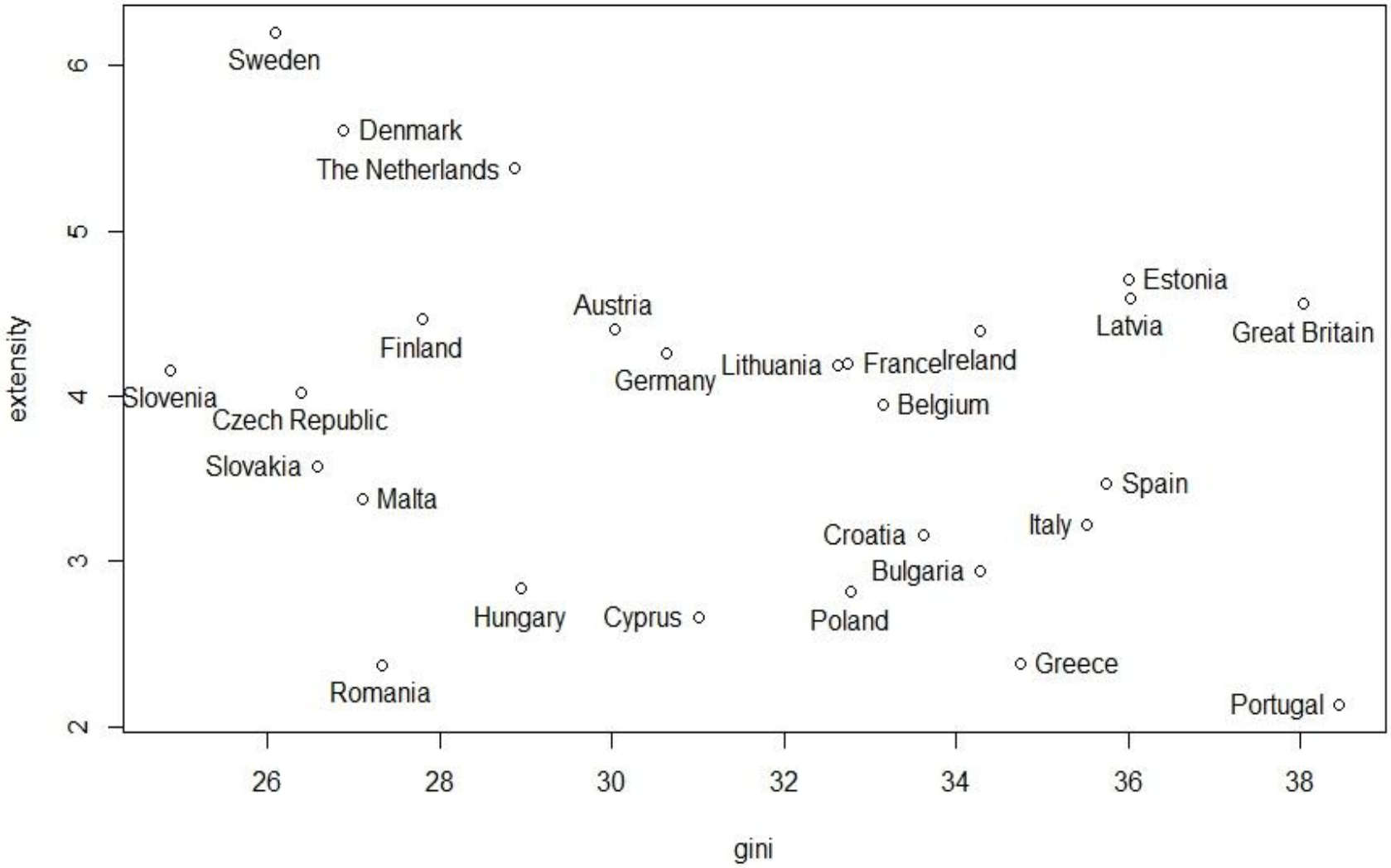
Average Intensity of Cultural Participation across Europe



GDP per capita and Extensity of Cultural Consumption



Gini and Extensity of Cultural Consumption



Unemployment rate and Extensity of Cultural Consumption

Professional Status and Extensity: Multilevel Models

Managers have higher diversity comparing to self-employed

White collars = self-employed

Manual workers and not working – lower level of consumption

However, stronger impact of education

GDP increases extensity

Unemployment rate has negative impact on the number of practices

No significant effect of Gini

Different effect of professional

Professional Status and Intensity: regional differences

West: managers = self-employed, higher impact of education

North and East: white-collars = self-employed

East: stronger effect of gender

East and South: lower level of consumption of unemployed

Further Steps

Multilevel Latent Class Analysis

Logistic regressions

Hierarchical regressions with cross-level interactions

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Thank you for your attention!

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Table 1. Impact of Professional Status on the Extensity of Cultural Consumption (hierarchical poisson regression)

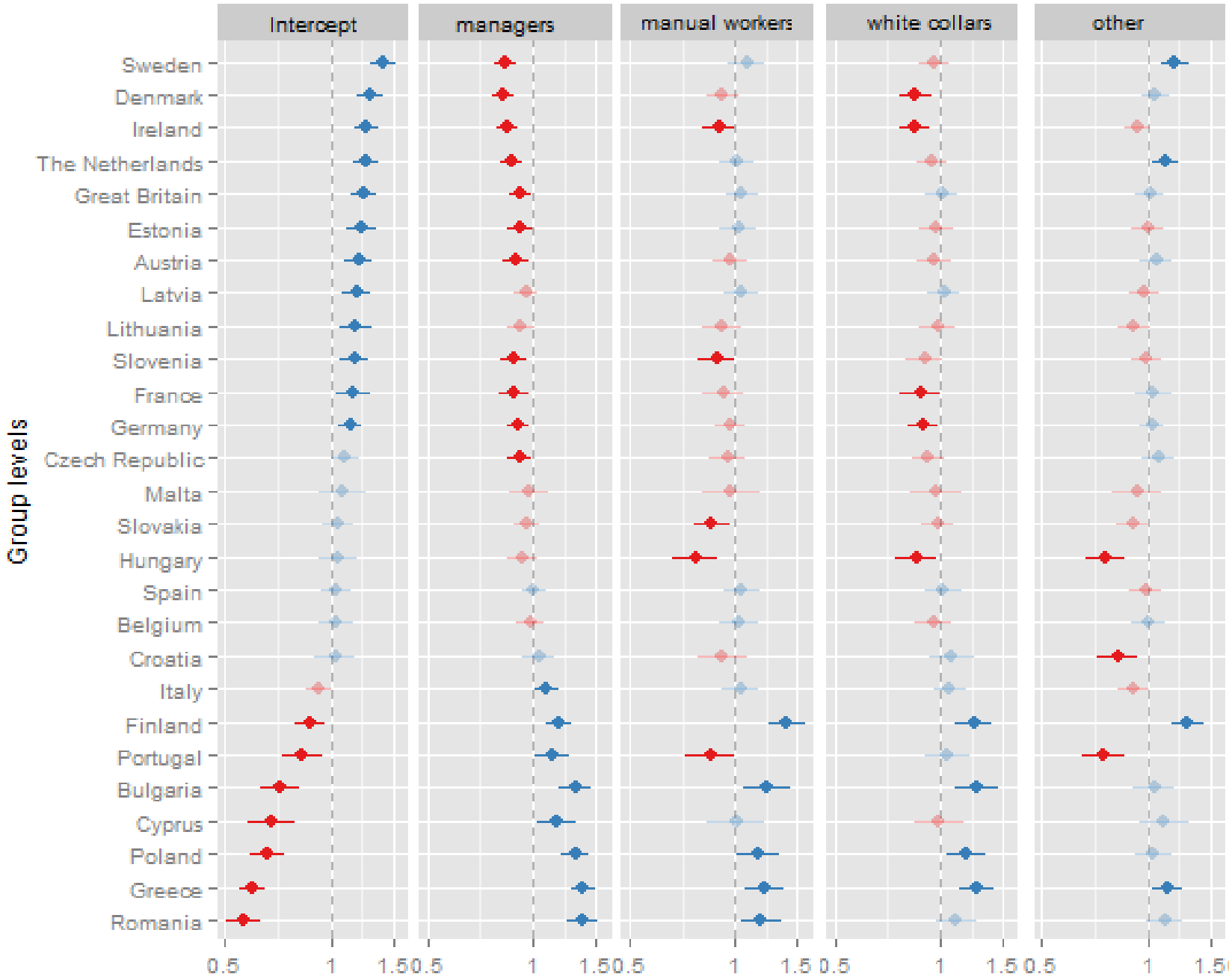
	Dependent variable:			
	Extensity			
	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
Professional Status (reference category = self-employed)				
Managers	0.064***	0.064***	0.063***	0.064***
	(0.016)	(0.016)	(0.016)	(0.016)
White Collars	-0.022	-0.022	-0.022	-0.022
	(0.016)	(0.016)	(0.016)	(0.016)
Manual Workers	-0.198***	-0.198***	-0.198***	-0.198***
	(0.015)	(0.015)	(0.015)	(0.015)
Other	-0.274***	-0.275***	-0.275***	-0.275***
	(0.014)	(0.014)	(0.014)	(0.014)
Second-level predictors				
GDP	0.121***			
	(0.029)			
Gini Coefficient		-0.032		
		(0.037)		
Unemployment Rate			-0.014**	
			(0.006)	
CUPIx				0.083**
				(0.034)
Control Variables				
Gender (F)	0.130***	0.130***	0.130***	0.130***
	(0.007)	(0.007)	(0.007)	(0.007)
Size of the town	0.008***	0.008***	0.008***	0.008***
	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.002)	(0.002)
Difficulties paying bills (yes)	-0.142***	-0.142***	-0.142***	-0.142***
	(0.008)	(0.008)	(0.008)	(0.008)
Age	-0.003***	-0.003***	-0.003***	-0.003***
	(0.0003)	(0.0003)	(0.0003)	(0.0003)
Age when completed education (20+)	0.364***	0.365***	0.365***	0.365***
	(0.009)	(0.009)	(0.009)	(0.009)
Students	0.559***	0.560***	0.560***	0.560***
	(0.017)	(0.017)	(0.017)	(0.017)
Constant	1.200***	1.193***	1.352***	1.198***
	(0.035)	(0.042)	(0.080)	(0.039)
Observations	25,449	25,449	25,449	25,449
Log Likelihood	-49,662.140	-49,668.430	-49,666.430	-49,666.090
Akaike Inf. Crit.	99,350.290	99,362.870	99,358.870	99,358.180
Bayesian Inf. Crit.	99,456.170	99,468.750	99,464.750	99,464.060

Note: *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Table 2. Impact of Professional Status on Intensity of Cultural Consumption across Regions (Negative Binomial Regression; reference category: self-employed)

	Dependent Variable: Intensity			
	West	North	Central & Est	South
Managers	NS	0.073	0.105	0.153
		(0.020)	(0.015)	(0.021)
White Collars	-0.074	NS	NS	0.038
	(0.018)			(0.018)
Manual Workers	-0.124	-0.057	-0.093	-0.041
	(0.016)	(0.019)	(0.013)	(0.017)
Other	-0.134	-0.054	-0.117	-0.067
	(0.015)	(0.018)	(0.013)	(0.015)
Gender (F)	0.053	0.075	0.091	0.045
	(0.007)	(0.009)	(0.006)	(0.008)
Size of the Town	-0.007	-0.007	NS	0.012
	(0.002)	(0.002)		(0.003)
Difficulties Paying Bills (yes)	-0.052	-0.079	-0.057	-0.128
	(0.008)	(0.013)	(0.006)	(0.009)
Age	0.0002	0.002	-0.001	-0.003
	(0.0003)	(0.0004)	(0.0002)	(0.0003)
Age when completed Education	0.217	0.179	0.183	0.184
	(0.008)	(0.010)	(0.007)	(0.011)
Students	0.308	0.278	0.361	0.262
	(0.018)	(0.024)	(0.014)	(0.019)
Constant	2.847	2.788	2.755	2.785
	(0.021)	(0.028)	(0.017)	(0.023)
Observations	6,455	3,881	9,476	5,611
Log Likelihood	-19,251.65	-11,908.9	-27,645.38	-15,919.41
Theta	42.498	51.153	42.833	43.879
AIC	38,525.31	23,839.81	55,312.75	31,860.82

Note: *only significant effects shown (p<0.01)*


Intercept
managers
manual workers
white collars
other
Group levels
Sweden
Denmark
Ireland
The Netherlands
Great Britain
Estonia
Austria
Latvia
Lithuania
Slovenia
France
Germany
Czech Republic
Malta
Slovakia
Hungary
Spain
Belgium
Croatia
Italy
Finland
Portugal
Bulgaria
Cyprus
Poland
Greece
Romania
0.5
1
1.5

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